inter-alia, the State Governments (where there is no system of State advised price for sugarcane) to raise additional market borrowings to help the sugar factories to clear the arrears on account of cane price payments for the 2002-03 sugar season.

Projects undertaken by NEC

248. SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Will the Minister of DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION be pleased to state:

(a) the projects which NEC has decided to undertake for execution in the North-Eastern States under Non-Lapsable Pool during the Tenth Plan/current year, State-wise;

(b) the projects under Non-Lapsable Pool, which have to be executed in Tripura;

(c) whether funds have been placed for these projects;

(d) the number of projects of Tripura in which there is good progress (including the pending ones);

(e) the number of projects in which there is no progress at all (including the pending ones); and

(f) how does Government think in utilising the allotted funds, in time?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) NEC funds developmental projects in the North Eastern Region from the Plan Funds allocated to it under its Annual Plans by the Planning Commission. It does not finance projects under Non–Lapsable Central Pool of Resources (NLCPR).

(b) to (f) Does not arise.

Restructuring of NEC

249. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any plan to restructure NEC;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the total amount accrued in the Non-Lapsable Central Pool of Resources till March, 2003; and

(d) the amount released from NLCPR since its inception indicating number of projects submitted by each State and cleared, State-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) and (b) The Union Cabinet has, in July 2003, identified "Revitalization of NEC" as a "Thrust Area" to be monitored by the Prime Minister. A Committee, under the Chairmanship of Shri P.P. Shrivastav, IAS (Retd.) has been constituted by DONER, *vide* Order No. 4/28/2003-NEC of 14.10.2003, to suggest measures for realising the revised mandate as per the amended NEC Act of 2002 and for revitalizing NEC. The Terms of Reference of the Committee, include, *inter alia:*

(i) Operationalising the revised mandate of NEC, keeping in view the recent amendment, past performance of NEC and Allocation of Business Rules for DONER;

(ii) Bringing about synergies with the Line Departments of the Govt. of India and NEC in order to enhance regional perspectives in their planning and functioning;

(iii) Reviewing capabilities and systems for appraisal/ implementation/monitoring/evaluation of Schemes/ Projects and empowering NEC to function as a Regional Planning Body;

(iv) Conferment/delegation of financial and administrative powers to enable NEC to fulfil its revised mandate;

(v) Securing incorporation of sub regional concerns and issues in NEC's Vision/Plan;

The Committee is to submit its Report within three months for Government's consideration.

(c) The total amount accrued to the Non-lapsable Pool during 1998–2002 is Rs. 5806.07 crores. The accrual to NLCPR during the year 2002–2003 has not yet been confirmed by the Ministry of Finance and hence cannot be taken on record.

(d) The number of projects sanctioned and the amount released since inception till 25/11/03, State-wise is given in the statement below:—

Sl. No.	State	No. of Projects sanctioned	Funds released (Rs. Crore)
1.	Arunachal Pradesh	48	241.40
2.	Assam	130	441.20
3.	Manipur	37	253.71
4.	Meghalaya	19	104.57
5.	Mizoram	56	302.15
6.	Nagaland	62	217.54
7.	Sikkim	159	163.30
8.	Tripura	34	285.15
9.	Common to NER	4	18.46
	TOTAL :	549	2027.48

Off-loading of stakes in Oil PSUs

250. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to offload 10 to 12% stakes in select oil PSUs like IOC, GAIL and ONGC to make up for the shortfall in the projected disinvestment earnings due to Apex Court's embargo on HPCL/BPCL privatisation;

(b) whether there is also a proposal to split the IOC and hive off its marketing arm including retail outlets to a strategic buyer; and

(c) what are the other options being considered for making up the projected shortfall in the disinvestment kitty?

THE MINISTER OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) Disinvestment is a continuous process and Government keeps considering proposals for disinvestment of PSUs through inter-ministerial consultations and takes a final decision after considering all relevant factors. Currently, there is no decision to off load stakes in IOC, GAIL & ONGC.

(b) and (c) Government is exploring different options to address the situation arising out of the judgment of the Supreme Court dated 16–9–2003 regarding HPCL and BPCL disinvestment.